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No “snake farm” for Huron Township

HURON TOWNSHIP—Does state law now obstruct small townships’ economic development? Huron Township resident and Police Chief Robert Metzger said that it does.

“We want to grow our three small downtowns in Huron Township, but state law only allows a single Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in a jurisdiction,” said Metzger. “In our case, to comply with the law, we would have to annex ribbons of land in a ‘snake farm’ development, hornswoggling many homeowners along the way into a system that brings them no benefit.”

Huron Township’s three unincorporated communities are several miles apart. New Boston, Willow and Waltz are villages with their own identities. State Sen. Bruce Patterson, 7th District, has introduced legislation that addresses the imbalance in the law by making it possible for a single DDA to have two or more subdivisions.

“I am thrilled to be able to introduce Senate Bill 1206, which eliminates needless bureaucracy and encourages desperately needed economic growth,” said Patterson, whose district includes rural Huron Township.

Metzger said working with Sen. Patterson has been an enjoyable and rewarding process.

“We went to Sen. Patterson, knowing he was familiar with our situation, and he was able to draft a bill to help us, and any other jurisdictions in Michigan with circumstances like ours,” said Metzger, also a member of the Huron Township Capital Improvement Committee.

“Sen. Patterson saw the way to help us. His bill fits our situation exactly, and we’re delighted to be able to move forward. Huron Township can make progress now. Each of our villages can benefit, while keeping its uniqueness.”

The bill will now be taken up by the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

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